

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. **(ORIGINAL)** A pressure pad comprising at least two sets of alternately inflatable cells, the cells extending linearly transversely along the pad and held in place on a pad base by retaining means, characterized in that the retaining means hold the cells in tension across the pad.
2. **(CURRENTLY AMENDED)** ~~An alternating pad~~ A pressure pad as claimed in claim 1 characterised in that the retaining means are releasable.
3. **(CURRENTLY AMENDED)** ~~An alternating pad~~ A pressure pad as claimed in claim 1 characterised in that the retaining means secure the opposite ends of each cell at a predetermined distance from the centre linear axis of the cell.
4. **(CURRENTLY AMENDED)** ~~An alternating pad~~ A pressure pad as claimed in claim 3 characterised in that the retaining means also secures the central region of the cells along the centre linear axis of the cell.
5. **(CURRENTLY AMENDED)** ~~An alternating pad~~ A pressure pad as claimed in claim 4 characterised in that the retaining means comprise loop straps fixed to the pad base retaining the central region of each cell and ~~hook type~~ fasteners releasably retaining each end of the cell.
6. **(CURRENTLY AMENDED)** ~~An alternating pad~~ A pressure pad as claimed in claim 2 characterised in that the retaining means secure the opposite ends of each cell at a predetermined distance from the centre linear axis of the cell.
7. **(CURRENTLY AMENDED)** ~~An alternating pad~~ A pressure pad as claimed in claim 6 characterised in that the retaining means also secures the central region of the cells along the centre linear axis of the cell.

8. **(CURRENTLY AMENDED)** ~~An alternating pad~~ A pressure pad as claimed in claim 7 characterised in that the retaining means comprise loop straps fixed to the pad base retaining the central region of each cell and ~~hook type~~ fasteners releasably retaining each end of the cell.
9. **(NEW)** The pressure pad of claim 1 wherein the cells, as they extend transversely along the pad, are held in a bent state by the retaining means.
10. **(NEW)** A pressure pad including:
- a. a pad base;
 - b. at least two sets of alternately inflatable cells atop the pad base, the cells having lengths extending across the pad base, wherein:
 - (1) cells are tensioned along their lengths both when inflated and deflated, the cells having a tensioned shape when tensioned; and
 - (2) when tension is released, the cells assume an untensioned shape different from the tensioned shape.
11. **(NEW)** The pressure pad of claim 10 wherein the cells are tensioned by fasteners extending from cells at the ends of their lengths.
12. **(NEW)** The pressure pad of claim 10 wherein:
- a. each cell has a central portion spaced from the ends of its length, and
 - b. the central portion has a central axis offset from a linear axis extending between the ends.
13. **(NEW)** The pressure pad of claim 10 wherein:
- a. each cell has a central portion spaced from the ends of its length;
 - b. the central portion is restrained to the pad base; and
 - c. the central portion is offset from an axis extending between the fasteners.

14. **(NEW)** The pressure pad of claim 13 wherein the central portion is restrained to the pad base by a loop extending from the pad base about the central portion.
15. **(NEW)** The pressure pad of claim 10 wherein:
 - a. the cells have central axes extending between their opposing ends,
 - b. when the cells are tensioned, the central axes are bent into nonlinear shapes.
16. **(NEW)** A pressure pad including:
 - a. a pad base;
 - b. at least two sets of alternately inflatable cells atop the pad base, the cells having lengths extending between opposing cell ends across the pad base;
 - c. loops extending about the cells and restraining the cells to the pad base, the loops being spaced from the cell ends; and
 - d. fasteners at the cell ends, the fasteners being affixed to structure off of the pressure pad, whereby the cells and the pad base are held to the structure;wherein the loops and the fasteners urge the cells into nonlinear shapes between the loops and the fasteners.
17. **(NEW)** The pressure pad of claim 16 wherein the cells are tensioned along their lengths between the loops and the fasteners.
18. **(NEW)** The pressure pad of claim 17 wherein the loops extending about one of the cells have central axes which are offset from a linear axis extending between the fasteners of the cell.
19. **(NEW)** The pressure pad of claim 16 wherein the loops extending about one of the cells have central axes which are offset from a linear axis extending between the fasteners of the cell, the offset extending in a direction oriented at least substantially perpendicularly to the linear axis extending between the fasteners of the cell.

20. **(NEW)** The pressure pad of claim 19 wherein the cells are tensioned along their lengths.

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